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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC, HELD IN THE
ROOMS OF THE SOCIETY, ON JANUARY 31, 1920,
AT 7.30 P. M.

There were present President Hodghead and Directors Aitken, Costa, Cebrian and Benfield.

The minutes of the previous meeting, as printed in the PUBLICATIONS for December, were approved.

The following new members were elected:

F. A. FANCHER,
PROF. A. M. NEWBEGIN,
THEODORE THORHAMMER,
DR. EVELYN ABBT,
M. J. VOUTÉ,
HAMILTON M. JEFFERS,
MISS PERSIS H. COLEMAN
and

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OBSERVATORY OF STRASBOURG, FRANCE.

The Secretary read a letter from Professor B. Baillaud, Director of the Observatory of Paris, explaining the failure of the Paris Observatory to nominate for the November award of the Bruce Medal and reiterating his kindly interest. The failure was apparently due to some miscarriage of the mails.

Referring to the action of the Board of Directors, at the special meeting of November 29th, to consider the award of the Bruce Medal, the Secretary announced that the award went, by unanimous vote, to Professor E. W. Brown of Yale University, and that same had been accepted by Professor Brown.

The following correspondence was read:

PROFESSOR E. W. BROWN,
Yale University,
New Haven, Conn.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., December 2, 1919.

DEAR SIR:—

It is the very pleasant duty of the undersigned to inform you that, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, held in San Francisco on the 29th ultimo, to consider the award of the Bruce Gold Medal for the year 1920, the choice fell upon you by unanimous vote—such action being in recognition of your distinguished services to the science of astronomy.

For your information, we are enclosing to you herewith a copy of the By-Laws of this Society which include the statutes for the bestowal of the Bruce Medal. Your particular attention is directed to the provisions of Article V, at the bottom of page 6, which defines the methods by which decisions of the Board are reached. All awards are based upon nominations made by the Directors of the six great observatories of Harvard, Yerkes, Lick, Greenwich, Paris and Cordoba. In making its selections the Board is, therefore, influenced by the advice of those most competent to judge.

The tender to you, on this occasion, of the Bruce Medal, will constitute the fifteenth award of same. Other recipients have been as follows:—

Simon Newcomb, Arthur Auwers, David Gill, G. V. Schiaparelli, William Huggins, W. C. Vogel, E. C. Pickering, Geo. W. Hill, J. H. Poincaré, J. C. Kapteyn, O. Backlund, W. W. Campbell, Geo. E. Hale and E. E. Barnard.

In asking the privilege of adding your name to this distinguished roll of honor, it is the conviction of the Board of Directors of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific that the distinction is one to which your merits most eminently entitle you.

The Board will appreciate an early reply from you, signifying your acceptance of the Medal and, in the mean time, we remain

Most respectfully yours,

BEVERLY L. HODGHEAD, *President*.
D. S. RICHARDSON, *Secretary*.

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YALE UNIVERSITY, December 9, 1919.

MR. D. S. RICHARDSON,
Secretary of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

DEAR SIR:—

Your cordial letter of December 2 reached me last night.

I appreciate very highly the honor which the Board of Directors of the Society proposes to confer on me by the award of the Bruce Medal. I have long been aware of the distinction which is implied in such an award, not only on account of the care with which the selection is made, but also because of the justifiable pride which an astronomer may feel in seeing his name added to so distinguished a list as that of the past recipients of the Medal.

It is particularly pleasing to me that the honor should come just as this time when the printing of my Tables of the Moon has been completed and the volume is about to be issued, thus bringing to a conclusion the work which has been the chief occupation of my life.

It is hardly necessary to add, except as a matter of form, that I shall accept the Bruce Medal with very great pleasure.

Yours very truly,

ERNEST W. BROWN.

President Hodghead, who had just returned from the East, reported that he had had an interview with Professor Brown at New Haven, and that he had extended an invitation to him in the name of the Society, to come to California in March next to receive the Medal and address the Society. The matter is now under consideration by Professor Brown and hopes are entertained that he may find it possible to come West at the time stated.

Adjourned.